LOVE NOTES:

RESET  RESTART  RENEW

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. 12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. Psalm 85:8-13

The above headline is used on our list Best Practices To Be Used For In-Person Worship during this Covid-19 Pandemic and the current challenges facing the local church. Our reality of this being the major focus of our society right now does not mean that the other important concerns that we face as a church have vanished. In fact many of our communities have come to recognize that there seems to be an unlimited amount of despair connected to so many needs at one time.

In the midst of the church, we also face a variety of critical challenges right now. There is an urgency to live into our calling as the church and to listen attentively to His voice rather than our opinions. How do we give priority to God’s voice? I have imagined the circumstances that the Psalmist mentions in the passage above as the course that we must follow. “Let me hear what God the Lord will speak…”

I suggest that we all must hear what God has to say. This sounds so simple and yet it can be challenging, when we are encouraged to give our input and opinions and, sometimes in our desire to speak, we may not give adequate time to listening. Sometimes when this happens, we have not waited on the voice of God, spoken through His Word and the power of
the Holy Spirit. So how do we know? How can we be sure we have heard from God? It seems that in Psalm 85 there are some considerations to help us know

He will speak peace. His salvation is at hand. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet. Righteousness and peace will kiss each other. The Lord will give what is good.

We will know when God speaks peace, to his people to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

So now, what must we do? We must turn to him in our hearts. Let us in the season of many challenging and changing times, not lose sight of Jesus Christ. Let us keep our eyes of faith fixed on him and our ears attentive to His voice.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love
District Superintendent

BIRTHDAYS

- August 2: Heather Evans
- August 8: Corey Sullivan (Suzy)
- August 12: Suzy Sullivan
- August 15: Martha Alewine (Barrett)
- August 16: Stephen Love
- August 17: Karen Bowling (R.T.),
  Jimmy Counts
- August 21: Evelyn Healy (Kendell)
- August 26: Holly Gwaltney (Rudy)
- August 27: Mary Lou Finley (Emil)

ANNIVERSARIES

- August 4: Durand and Robin Hall
- August 5: Johnny and Valerie Mireb
- August 9: Craig and Darlene Kelley
- August 14: James and Ashley McCoy-Bruce
- August 15: Tim and Monica Jones
- August 19: Tommy and Meg Wilkes
- August 22: Scott and Frances Nurse
- August 23: Jerry and Becky Pickens
- August 29: R. T. and Karen Bowling

CELEBRATE!
Thank you for a good Set-up Meeting on August 11.

Reminder: Please respond promptly to the inquiry about the best date and time for a specific Charge Conference training event. We highly recommend all new pastors, pastors in new appointments, church secretaries/administrative assistants (especially those who are newly hired), and anyone else who will have responsibilities for completing charge conference reports participate in this training. However, anyone may attend this training.

More details about charge conference and consultations will be forthcoming. Watch your email for updates.

2020 APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

Despite the grace period for paying direct billing, the need for churches to pay apportionments continues. Sadly payment of 2020 apportionments has declined since this time last year.

As of July 31, 2020, the report from the Conference Treasurer shows where the Greenwood District stands with regards to 2020 apportionment payments:

- 28 churches have paid 0% toward their 2020 apportionments
- 3 churches have paid 1% - 25% of their 2020 apportionments
- 14 churches have paid 26-50% of their 2020 apportionments
- 18 churches have paid 51-75% of their 2020 apportionments
- 0 churches have paid 76% - 99% of their 2020 apportionments
- 4 churches have paid 100% of their apportionments
GREENWOOD DISTRICT CLERGY COVENANT GROUP OPPORTUNITY

The Greenwood District will be offering a clergy covenant group for continuing education credits (CEUs) starting in September. The group will meet on the second Wednesday of each month ending in May. We will follow the traditional format with a three-hour didactic session in the morning and a three-hour covenant session after lunch. The topic for study for the year will be determined by the group at the first session on September 9, 2020, at Edgefield UMC. A total of three CEUs will be awarded for those who fully attend six of the eight sessions. A flyer with more details will be in your August start-up packet. For further information, please contact Tommy Wilkes (803-622-2264) or Susan Maddox (803-507-7365).

NEW DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to The Reverend Millie Nelson Smith, who has been appointed as the new Director of Connectional Ministries, effective September 1, 2020. Rev. Nelson Smith is currently serving as a congregational specialist.

You may read the press release of this appointment on the Conference web page.

A BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Thank you, God, for your loving protection of our children, their teachers, and school staff. Keep them safe in their daily adventures and protect them from any harm while they are in school. We know this is a time of great concern for everyone but we are resting in your assurance, guidance, and protection. Guide the decision-makers so they make the best choices for our students on a daily basis. Guide the teachers that they may show your love, grace, and mercy to every student. Guide the parents that they may be strong in their faith to teach their children how to follow your Way. In Jesus’ name, Amen.
CONSULTATION/CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

CONSULTATIONS:

Z = ZOOM meeting  
f2f = face-to-face in-person meeting

AUGUST 31:
9:00 a.m.: Barrett Alewine (f2f)
10:05 a.m. Tim Jones (Z)
11:10 a.m. Susan Maddox (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 1:
9:00 a.m. Charles Adams (f2f)
10:05 a.m. John Bolin (Z)
11:10 a.m. Myra Taylor (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 2:
9:00 a.m. Emil Finley (Z)
10:05 a.m. Steve Keck (f2f)
11:10 a.m. Nels Ledwell (Z)

SEPTEMBER 3:
9:00 a.m. Thessa Smith (Z)
10:05 a.m. Kathy Hudson (Z)
11:10 a.m. Gerald Clinkscales (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 14:
9:00 a.m. Mark Thompson (f2f)
10:05 a.m. Hank Brooks (Z)
11:10 a.m. Lee Cothran (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 16:
9:00 a.m. Jimmy Counts (Z)
10:05 a.m. James McCoy-Bruce (f2f)
4:00 p.m. Craig Vondergeest (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 17:
9:00 a.m. Bob Huggins (f2f)
10:05 a.m. Suzy Sullivan (Z)
11:10 a.m. Daniel Eplee (Z)

SEPTEMBER 21:
9:00 a.m. Jerry Pickens (f2f)
10:05 a.m. Hillary Taylor (Z)
11:10 a.m. Gray Stallworth (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 22:
9:00 a.m. Carol Peppers Wray (Z)
10:05 a.m. Mitchell Wray (Z)
11:10 a.m. Valerie Mireb (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 23:
9:00 a.m. Rudy Gwaltney (Z)
10:05 a.m. Alan Quarles (Z)
11:10 a.m. Ken Freeman (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 24:
9:00 a.m. Dan Bradley (f2f)
10:05 a.m. William Hightower (Z)
11:10 a.m. Donna Eidson (f2f)

SEPTEMBER 28:
9:00 a.m. Tommy Wilkes (Z)
10:05 a.m. Randall Haase (f2f)
11:10 a.m. Meg Wilkes (Z)
1:30 p.m. Dick Goldie

Masks are required for face-to-face in-person Consultations
CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE—SEPTEMBER

CHARGE CONFERENCES:

Z = ZOOM meeting  f2f = face-to-face in-person meeting

SEPTEMBER 13:  12:30 p.m.  Bethlehem (f2f)
                 2:00 p.m.  Crossroads/Martha’s Chapel (f2f)
                 4:00 p.m.  St. Paul, Saluda (f2f)
                 6:00 p.m.  Butler/Shiloh (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 14:  6:00 p.m.  McCormick (Z)
                 7:00 p.m.  Troy (Z)
SEPTEMBER 16:  6:30 p.m.  Soule Chapel (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 17:  6:30 p.m.  Plum Branch (Republican) (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 20:  1:00 p.m.  Tranquil (f2f)
                 2:30 p.m.  Lupo Memorial (f2f)
                 4:00 p.m.  Harris (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 22:  6:30 p.m.  Lewis Memorial/Ebenezer (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 23:  6:30 p.m.  Cambridge (Z)
SEPTEMBER 24:  6:30 p.m.  Greenwood/Ninety Six Charge (f2f)
                 (Mays UMC)
SEPTEMBER 27:  1:00 p.m.  St. James (f2f)
                 2:30 p.m.  First, Laurens (f2f)
                 4:00 p.m.  Central, Laurens (f2f)
                 5:30 p.m.  Broad St., Clinton (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 28  6:30 p.m.  Harmony/Johnston (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 29:  6:30 p.m.  St. Paul, Ninety Six (f2f)
SEPTEMBER 30:  7:00 p.m.  St. Mark (Z)

NOTES:

• For multi-point charges with face-to-face in-person Charge Conferences, the
  meeting will take place at the church whose name is listed first.

• Please do NOT change the location or time of your Charge Conference (f2f/
  in-person CCs) without contacting the district office in advance.

• Masks and social distancing are expected for face-to-face in-person Charge
  Conferences.
Congratulations to the Reverend Hillary Taylor (Bethany/Zoar Charge) and the Reverend Ken Freeman, (Emory/Nazareth Charge) who were ordained Saturday, August 8, as Elders in Full Connection in the South Carolina Annual Conference. We look forward to continuing to serve with them in the Greenwood District.

Congratulations to the Reverend Cameron Levi (Pomaria Charge), who was commissioned as a Provisional Elder on Saturday, August 8. We look forward to continuing to serve with Cameron in the Greenwood District.

All clergy spouses offer Congratulations to Amy Freeman and to Sabrina Levi on their accomplishment of surviving this time of their husbands seeking a status change in the Annual Conference.